Target for the construction of new railway lines

443. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target fixed by Government for the construction of new rail lines in the country during the year 1990-91 particularly in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) what was the target during 1988-89 and 1989-90; and

(c) whether the target was fully achieved, if not, the reasons thereof and details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Target for New Lines in 1990-91 will depend upon the allocation of funds by the Planning Commission under the plan-head "New Lines".

(b) and (c) Position of targets for New Lines fixed and achieved, is as under:—

	1988-89		1989-90	
	Target fixed	Target achieved	Target Fixed	Anticipated achievement
All India	306 km	306 km	333 km	333 km
Andhra Pradesh	. .	. .	. .	. .
Karnataka	. .	. .	35 km	35 km
Tamil Nadu	74 km	74 km	. .	. .

Atrocities on Scheduled Castes in the country

444. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As against 13,529 total number of atrocities registered in the year 1987 for the country as a whole, the figure for the year 1988 is 15,207 Complete information for the year 1989 is not available. The State-wise details for the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 (to the extent available) are given in the statement attached (*see* below).

(c) Due guidelines have been issued to States/Union Territories to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, etc. The Government have enacted the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, which defines the offences of atrocities and provides for punishment to offenders. The State Governments have been advised to specify Special Courts, notify Special Public Prosecutors and take other preparatory measures for enforcement of the Act and the last communication on this is a letter dated 28.12.1989 addressed to all Chief Ministers.

Statement

State-wise Details of Atrocities Registered

S.No.	State/UT	Number of Cases Registered in			
		(1987)	(1988)	(1989)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	253	424	371	Up to Sept. 1989
2.	Assam	03	13	06	June
3.	Bihar	1271	1297	338	April
4.	Goa	01	01	02	October
5.	Gujarat	727	665	510	October
6.	Haryana	85	87	61	October
7.	Himachal Pradesh	52	80	61	October
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	156	161	139	October
9.	Karnataka	267	393	367	June
10.	Kerala	719	506	347	July
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2879	3764	3495	October
12.	Maharashtra	400	452	280	Sept.
13.	Orissa	212	287	287	October
14.	Punjab	24	25	11	Sept.
15.	Rajasthan	1465	1572	1150	Sept.
16.	Sikkim	04	06	03	Sept.
17.	Tamil Nadu	650	709	369	Sept.
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4348	4755	3945	Sept.
19.	West Bengal	08	09	12	August
20.	Delhi	03	Nil	05	November
21.	Pondicherry	02	Nil	01	Sept.
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	01	Nil	November
		13529	15207	11760	

NOTE: Information in respect of other States/UTs is Nil.

Drought-prone area

445. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare a district as drought-prone area if most of the blocks in the district are covered under the Drought-Prone Area Programme; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) The current practice based on the recommendation of the Task Force on Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme is to treat only a block as the administrative unit for declaring an area as drought prone. No change in this practice is being contemplated.

Recasting of Nehru Rozgar Yojna

446. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals are under Government's consideration to recast Nehru Rozgar Yojna;

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of the major changes to be effected in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Taking into consideration, inter-alia, the views of the various State Governments/UTs and other concerned authorities, and the feed-back from the field regarding implementation, Government will recast the scheme if necessary in order to ensure that the Nehru Rozgar Yojana effectively achieves the objectives of poverty allevation and employment